



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Date set for case that may evict disbarred attorney from house

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Disbarred attorney Thomas White, who is facing 20 felony charges in 34th District Court and a Chapter 7 bankruptcy proceeding in U.S. District Court, now has a court date that could get him evicted from his Van Buren Township home.

White and his estranged wife Heather White have been summoned to 34th District Court at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 16, to face a complaint filed the day after Christmas seeking their removal from their home at 41305 Savage Road for nonpayment of their land contract.

The land contract forfeiture complaint was filed by Steven P. Robinson, a Romulus attorney, on behalf of Robert and Gloria Coppock, who had sold the house to the Whites on a land contract.

But, the Whites stopped paying their house payment almost six months ago, and continue to live in the house.

The Whites have 10 days to respond after their summons has been served. They may ask for a jury trial and pay the required jury fee in their first response or lose the right for a jury.

The summons said if they are in court on time, the Whites will have the opportunity to give the reasons why they feel they should not be evicted. They are advised to bring witnesses, receipts, and other necessary paperwork with them.

The summons states if they are not in court on time, they could be evicted without a trial and a money judgment may be entered against them.

If the Coppocks prevail, an order is then given that allows no less than 90 days for White to leave the property.

On Nov. 7, U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Thomas J. Tucker signed an order removing White's house from bankruptcy protection, giving the Coppocks the right to get the money White owes them for unpaid land

contract payments or to get their property back.

Judge Tucker's order said the approximate market value of the property is \$260,000 and the current debt owing is about \$306,688, which includes unpaid property taxes and the Coppocks' attorney fee and costs for filing the motion.

Walter H. Czeizler of Livonia, the Coppocks' bankruptcy attorney, said the forfeiture filed by attorney Robinson is a "pay and stay" option that gives the Whites a chance to catch up on what they owe and stay in the house with reinstated monthly payments.

If the Whites don't pay what they owe, the district court judge can turn the property over to the Coppocks, he said.

Heather White files for divorce

In another detail of the convoluted cases involving Thomas White, his wife Heather Lea White filed for divorce on Nov. 1.

Heather is representing herself in the case and no children are claimed since all four of their children are over the age of 18. Several of the adult children live in the house from which they may all be evicted.

The Divorce Settlement Conference / Trial is set for 9 a.m. Feb. 6 before Circuit Court Judge Arthur J. Lombard. The court session was reset by the court from the original date of Jan. 31.

Veterans get new homes in Belleville, Detroit at Little Caesar Pizza Bowl

Sgt. Todd Beasley and his family of Flat Rock were given a new home in Belleville at half time at Thursday's Little Caesar's Pizza Bowl at Ford Field in Detroit.

Also receiving a new home in Detroit were Army Lt. Anthony Ashford and wife

(continued on page 12)



Independent photo courtesy Sumpter Township Police Department

Early Sunday morning a one-vehicle accident on Sumpter Road, just south of the roller rink, took the life of Clark Kevin Miles of Van Buren Township.

The engine block was torn out of the car and into the street by the impact with a tree. A Sumpter fire fighter responding to the accident hit the engine with his vehicle.



VBT man dies in one-vehicle accident in Sumpter Twp. Sunday

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A 59-year-old Van Buren Township man died in a one-vehicle accident on Sumpter Road, just south of Rymut Drive and the roller rink, at about 3:55 a.m. Sunday.

Sumpter Township Police Sgt. Patrick Gannon said a volunteer fire fighter, who was southbound on Sumpter Road, passed the Ford Focus that was northbound at a high rate of speed. The fire fighter said he heard the crash and found the car upside down and called for help.

Huron Valley Ambulance personnel declared Clark Kevin Miles dead at the scene.

Sgt. Gannon said the car was going sideways when it hit a tree on the driver's side. The impact was so hard that the full engine block was thrown into the roadway and one of the responding fire fighters struck the engine with his vehicle. He was

not injured.

Sgt. Gannon said the mark on the tree showing the impact of the Focus is six feet above road level.

Michigan State Police were called and will send a reconstructionist to investigate the accident, Sgt. Gannon said.

Mr. Miles' obituary is on page 8.

Minor collision sidelines Belleville police car, private vehicle on Sun.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At about noon on Sunday a Belleville Police car and a private vehicle collided on South Street in the area where the Glass Ranch and Dr. Norman MacDermid's office are located.

(continued on page 12)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT pays PFM to analyze the township's Visteon bonds position

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

In June 2012, the Van Buren Township Local Development Financing Authority (LDFA) hired Public Financial Management, Inc. (The PFM Group) to advise the LDFA on what could be done about the Visteon bonds.

It was apparent that LDFA would not have the funds available in the future to pay off the bonds, as planned.

PFM's work included analysis of cash flow including projected tax increment revenues, debt service requirements and analysis on options available.

They also provided graphs of a projected cash flow schedule of the LDFA and its ability to meet its debt obligations.

To date, the LDFA has spent \$10,646 out of its budget for services with the PFM Group.

The 87-page report, which was obtained by the *Independent* through the Freedom of Information Act, is dated Sept. 6, 2013 and was sent with Clark Hill law firm's Sept. 9, 2013 letter to Visteon demanding a meeting.

PFM concluded the taxable values within the LDFA are much lower than the original projections in 2003 and a cash shortfall is inevitable if new revenues are not introduced.

PFM provided 15 cash-flow scenarios. In all but two, the LDFA will have a cumulative cash flow deficit by 2018 with two exceptions showing the deficit occurring one year earlier, in 2017.

Another observation made by PFM in the various cash flow scenarios is that the projected shortfall ranges from \$25.1 million to \$36.4 million.

The reports state without a substantial increase in the captured taxes, or the influx of additional funds by 2017 or 2018, the LDFA will not have sufficient funds to meet the debt service obligation which the township and/or LDFA issued for the benefit of the Visteon development.

PFM added that a financial plan to deal with the imminent cash deficit needs to be developed now to negate the shortfall the LDFA will begin to face by 2017 or 2018.

Historical LDFA, Bond and Visteon Bankruptcy Data from the PFM Report

In July 2002 the Township Board adopted a resolution to create the Local Development Financing Authority (LDFA). The authority was established to encourage local development, prevent conditions of unemployment and promote economic development within the Township.

Shortly after, the authority used its power to help Visteon establish its new world

headquarters (Visteon Village) within the district. This assistance included the development and construction of various public facilities.

Visteon Village proposed to include nine buildings for office and technology use as well as related parking and property improvement on a 7.5 acre property. The Developer, Visteon Village, also proposed another 49 acres of property to be developed and utilized for utilities, roads, storm water management, parking and open spaces, agreeing to spend a minimum of \$270 million prior to the end of 2004.

Van Buren Township and the LDFA agreed to pay Visteon \$21,985,475 toward the cost of the public facilities to be paid from bond proceeds. LDFA prepared a development plan and Tax Increment Financing plan to capture the incremental tax revenues from the development and to repay the bond debt service.

The LDFA issued tax increment bonds, for \$21,610,000 on Aug. 6, 2003 and capital appreciation bonds totaling \$6,589,656 for a total of \$28,199,656.

In order to make the bond issuance marketable to potential investors, VBT pledged its limited tax full faith and credit as additional security for the bonds. From 2013 to 2032 when the bonds are paid off the total cost to the township in principle and interest is \$48.568 million.

Visteon Corp. files for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy

On May 28, 2009 Visteon filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

At the time Visteon filed for bankruptcy the township assessed the value of Visteon Village at approximately \$165 million. But, Visteon believed it was worth substantially less.

So, in September 2009 Visteon began negotiations with the township to obtain a reduction of assessed value of Visteon Village and advised the township that they would likely start litigation against the township if the parties were unable to reach an agreement on a reduced taxable value for Visteon Village.

The township had given Visteon an Industrial Facility Tax Abatement in exchange for locating its operation in the township. As a result of economic conditions, Visteon was not able to meet certain obligations under the tax abatement agreement in connection with staffing levels at Visteon Village, entitling the township to revoke the tax abatements.

Settlement Agreement with Visteon Corporation

On Jan. 25, 2010 in response to Visteon's

(continued on page 10)

FBI UNIFORM CRIME REPORT			
2012 Crime	Van Buren Township Incidents	Belleville Incidents	Sumpter Township Incidents
Population	28,548	3,954	9,457
Aggravated Assault	77	9	9
Arson	1	0	1
Burglary	170	32	53
Forcible Rape	19	0	2
Larceny and Theft	559	71	106
Motor Vehicle Theft	72	4	11
Murder and Manslaughter	1	0	0
Robbery	10	1	1
Property Crime	801	107	170
Violent Crime	107	10	12
2011 Crime	Van Buren Township Incidents	Belleville Incidents	Sumpter Township Incidents
Population	28,799	3,988	9,542
Aggravated Assault	53	6	21
Arson	4	0	4
Burglary	167	29	70
Forcible Rape	27	3	0
Larceny and Theft	533	89	139
Motor Vehicle Theft	99	4	16
Murder and Manslaughter	0	0	0
Robbery	20	6	3
Property Crime	799	122	225
Violent Crime	100	15	12

Recently released figures.

VBT considers litigation to get Visteon to fulfill its promise to help pay

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

In Visteon's bankruptcy settlement, Visteon agreed to negotiate with Van Buren Township in good faith to determine the amount of the shortfall with respect to the bonds and make a non-tax payment -- pay in lieu of tax, or PILOT -- to the township and to assist the township in making timely payments on the bonds.

-- Taken from former VBT Supervisor Paul White's reading of the agreement at a September 2012 LDFA meeting

After the sale of the Grace Lake complex to Sovereign Partners, the assessed value of the property that Visteon was paying taxes on was greatly reduced. This became a

concern to the Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) and in September 2012 a resolution was passed to encourage the VBT Board of Trustees to reopen negotiations with Visteon, and to file suit within 21 days if settlement discussions were not fruitful.

Apparently a letter was written but was never sent and the *Independent* has been unable to obtain any documentation. Linda Combs, who at that time was VBT's newly elected supervisor, said there was no letter to Visteon on her desk when she came into office and she knew nothing about it.

At the September 2012 meeting former Supervisor Paul White said, "They were called and we did not receive a return call."

(continued on page 10)

OPINIONS

Editorial

VBT Fire Dept. struggles with staffing both halls

VBT voters were told if they passed the Public Safety Millage they would get 24/7, two-person Duty Crews at both Fire Station 1, on Sumpter Road at the south end of the township, and Station 2, on Belleville Road at the north end. But that isn't the case these days.

With the Affordable Care Act, the number of hours part-time people can work and a union contract establishes a maximum 36 hours per work week for part-time fire fighters. Duty Crew hours must be distributed as evenly as possible, so that a full-time township employee who is also a fire fighter is not allowed to work as many hours as he wants just because he already receives benefits.

On Dec. 26, the *Independent* got an email saying there appeared to be no one on duty at Fire Station 1. Fire Chief Dan Besson was home with the flu, but he answered our email from his sick bed.

He said the worst-case scenario for the fire department is a staff of 2 for the Duty Crew in the north and 1 in the south and that was the situation during that day shift, but the night shift had 4. The day shift fire fighter was out with medical runs when the resident passed by the darkened hall.

Eighteen new fire fighters were added to the department in 2013 and as their training concludes they will be able to help keep the daily staff to 4, Chief Besson said. Right now, those in the south end tell me they worry about what will happen if there is a fire at their home.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Katie Dallos, director of the Belleville Area Museum, sent out a notice to Historical Society members on Saturday announcing that her thyroid surgery went well and she has been recuperating at home nicely. Get well soon, Katie.

"Our mission: Engage. Empower. Enrich."

Somehow "enrich" doesn't seem like the best word to use in persuading taxpayers, emailed a reader in commenting on last week's page-12 story that tells of the district library's new mission statement.

The plan is to use the mission statement in the campaign to get voters to support tax funds for a new library. The election will be in August.

The district library board hired consultant Susan Kennedy, who for \$6,000, did interviews and gathered together information from SEMCOG, etc., before coming up with the mission statement.

"For free, you & I can find better words in any dictionary," our reader wrote in a second email.

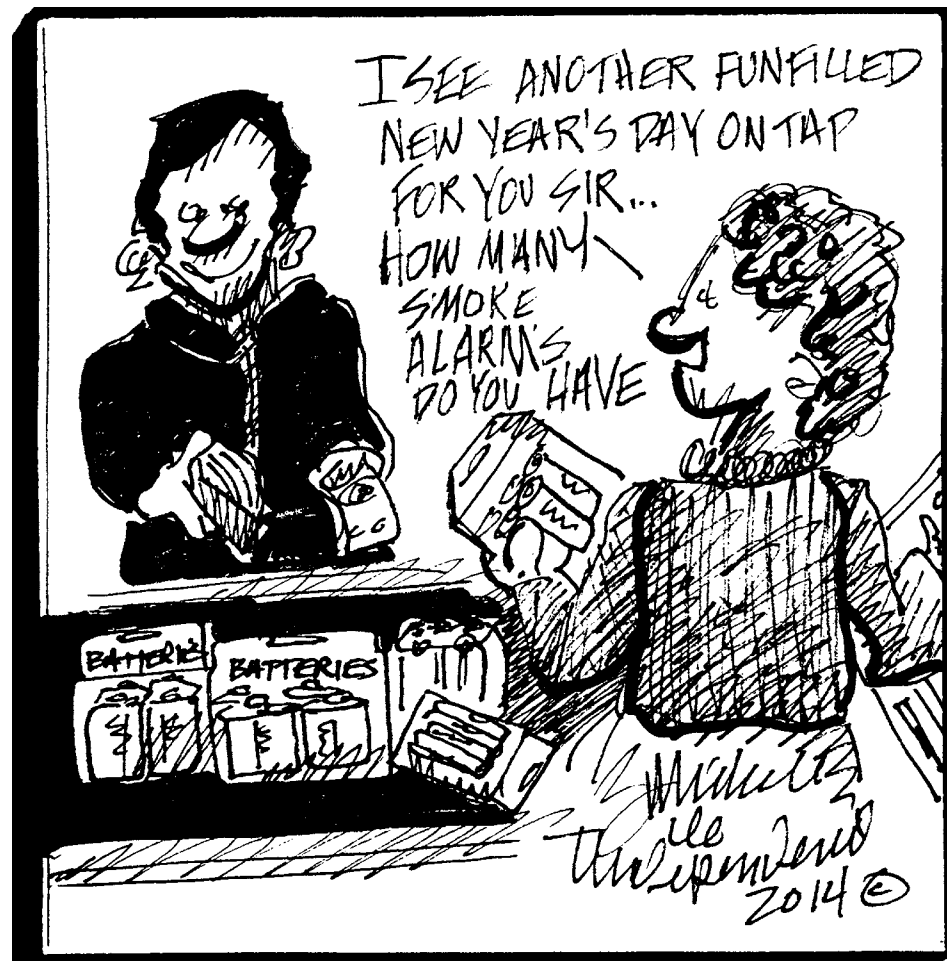
"Keeping with their theme of using E-words (not sure why), I might choose, in reverse alpha-order, "Envision. Entrust. Enlighten." to describe their mission (imagine & plan, trust the taxpayers for funds, then furnish knowledge forevermore).

"While I was looking up words, I also made note of the definitions for the \$6,000 mantra:

"ENGAGE: to involve, entangle, attract & hold by influence or power, bind, induce to participate

"EMPOWER: to give official authority or legal power

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



"ENRICH: to make rich or richer, make soil more fertile, improve the nutritive value of food by processing with vitamins & minerals."

Another reader sent me a newsletter from the Performance Network Theatre in Ann Arbor. Its newsletter heading had its mission statement in capital letters: ENGAGE. CHALLENGE. INSPIRE.

Her handwritten comment was, "They must have the same consultant as the library."

Our readers sure are thinkers.

Of course, whatever we think, the new mission statement will be out and around within a few months when the cost of the new library is determined and the election campaign begins in earnest.

Back to the first reader that commented. She emailed me again saying that we should have said the \$120,700 grant coming to the Belleville DDA was from the MNRTF (Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund) instead of the MDNR (Michigan Department of Natural Resources) as we had in our headline. That story was on page 3 last week.

She's right. We should have been more precise in the headline.

She continued: "Wonder if the same grant could be applied for again in the future (if the library millage passes) to help with the "Book & Hook" (my new nickname for the

library with DNR fishing access)?"

Now that you mention it, those working on plans for a new library have said they will seek grants from the trust fund as well as anywhere else they can get money to help with the site work.

George Roman of Belleville got a very strange letter from the secret group called "The Society" that offered him free membership that will "absolutely change your life."

"You'll rub shoulders with the rich and famous, dine on succulent cuisine from master chefs, and drink the finest wine and champagne money can buy," the 10-page letter said.

George has brought me several scam letters he has received over the years and this, too, is a scam and he did not reply by the Dec. 20 deadline they set. He said he was too old to get rich. I love George.

We received an email from Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue on Tuesday, Dec. 31, announcing: "We have adopted 12 dogs and 29 cats this month! Five of the cat adoptions were on Saturday!"

What a great announcement and what a lot of work that reflects.



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Letters

Roses on my Christmas table were beautiful

To the Editor:

Happy New Year!

I was so excited a couple of weeks ago to see my name in the *Independent* as the recipient of a dozen roses from Main Street Flowers! The roses I received were multi-colored and ABSOLUTELY beautiful!

Thank you, Ron and Jane Vesche (owners of Main Street Flowers), for the flowers. You made my day and they looked beautiful on my table at Christmas! What a wonderful surprise and an awesome gift!

We are so lucky to live in a wonderful small town with amazing small businesses! Thank you, Main Street Flowers!

Dorothy Skszek
Van Buren Township

Some thoughts on Wisdom and Electricity

To the Editor:

Wise people learn from others' successes and failures.

Denmark gets 30% of its electricity from wind, hopes for 50% by 2020.

Germany gets 12% of its electricity from wind & solar, hopes for 35% by 2020. (Germany is rethinking the desirability of solar.)

Germans and Danes pay about 300% more for residential electricity than Americans, who get 3.5% of their electricity from wind and solar.

Baseload means the amount of electricity required during the day and night. At any given time the amount of electricity required must be available.

A spike in demand over baseload is met by drawing electricity from another

source on the grid. As population grows or individual demand routinely grows due to more electrical appliances, the baseload increases.

As the amount of electricity available is dependent upon wind and solar, the electricity to supply the baseload and any spikes becomes more problematic -- especially as coal and nuclear generators are shut down.

The obvious results will be: 1. higher electricity bills and 2. blackouts and/or brownouts.

Don't you just love the DTETV advertising when the two DTE representatives show the lady of the house how to save on electricity? One guy removes the old bulb, replaces it with a CFL and puts the old bulb in his pocket. Next scene they are standing on the front porch and the bulb has disappeared from his pocket.

Now, that is reducing electrical use -- disappearing light bulbs!

Sincerely,
Cornell Anton, Jr.
Belleville

Van Buren Police have worst holding cell

To the Editor:

The Van Buren Police Department has one of the worst holding cells around. Not only did they not give me meals like other places would, when they finally did give me something to eat it was a honey bun and I told them I'm allergic to it. They told me I had to eat it anyways. (Mind you, I was there for Thanksgiving and that weekend.)

Not only that, there was someone else in there who just had surgery and needed medication three times a day. They refused it to that person. Also, It's winter and they had the air on in the cells.

I understand that this is not a hotel and that you are to be punished, but I do think the things that I have listed are inhumane and taken too far.

No other place around treats people like that. I think something really needs to be looked at and done about the way they run their department. Thank you.

Signed by Deborah Koepfle of the City of Belleville, whose boyfriend spent Thanksgiving weekend in the holding cell.

Correction:

Father Eric Williams, Interim Pastor of Trinity Episcopal Church, was the clergyman in the picture on page 2 of last week's *Independent*. He was instrumental in the drive to collect warm socks for those being helped by First Step. He was identified under the picture as a representative of First Step. He isn't. We apologize for the confusion.

-- Rosemary K. Oztzman, editor

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"We hang the petty thieves and appoint
the great ones to public office."

— Aesop

More Letters

Remembering Nelson Mandela

To the Editor:

Perhaps these thoughts will take root and help us build a better community. A great Statesman has made his transition from our view but not from our spirit. You may ask how we should remember Nelson Mandela -- by looking at each other, not by a multitude of color, but rather as one United for the common cause of making a more civil World.

President Mandela rose to great heights through his determination, stick-to-it attitude and going through a "ring of fire" that met him on many sides.

He now joins those who fought the good fight of freedom, individuality expression and the right to cast a vote for self-government.

So when you look at your neighbor think of how blessed you are to have the privilege of serving one and another. How ironic that Mr. Mandela died in the season when the Savior of Man was in preparation of coming to save the World.

Rest in peace, President Mandela -- let the World continue to carry the light of Freedom for all.

Marian Caldwell
Van Buren Township

"Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you ARE, you AREN'T."

-- Margaret Thatcher
British Prime Minister, 1925-2013



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Obituaries



Jeannette Lydia Silvenis

JEANNETTE LYDIA SILVENIS

(August 18, 1924 – December 27, 2013)

Jeannette Lydia Silvenis, 89, living in Westland and formerly of Belleville, died December 27, 2013, at American House in Westland.

She was born August 18, 1924 in Detroit and grew up in Redford, MI, the only child of Stephen and Jeanette Wargo, also of Belleville. She graduated from Redford Union High School.

She was a longtime employee of Kirk's/Andrew's Sav-On Drugs in Belleville.

Lydia lived for 30 years in Belleville with her husband Stanley Michael Silvenis, who she met while visiting Hilda and Frank Ondrovik's strawberry farm on Haggerty Highway in Belleville. As an only child she loved the idea of becoming a member of the families of Stanley's sisters, Mae Kuchta and Ann Riggs, and his brother Michael Silvenis.

An Army wife (1941-45) she traveled from Louisiana to New York City with her husband Stanley as he was re-stationed. Once WWII was over (after 1946) they moved to Lincoln Park to start a family, but in 1950 they moved back to Belleville for better schools for their children.

She started her Belleville life as a stay-at-home mother of five children: four sons, Leonard (Linda nee Gray) Silvenis of Garden City, Glenn Silvenis of Belleville, Scott (Joyce nee Gregory) Silvenis of Old Fort, TN, and Donald (Anna nee Ostrowski) Silvenis of Pinckney; a daughter, Donna (Chris) Lochrie of Belleville; 13 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Once the children were grown, Stanley retired from Draw-Tite in Belleville and they moved to Naples, FL, built a new home, and started a new life. The snowbirds became Florida residents and Lydia started a third career, working at the local mall, while Stanley worked at the local race track. They were members of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Naples, where they lived until 2000 when Stanley's failing health caused them to move back to Westland, MI for better medical care and to be closer to family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband of more than 60 years Stanley Michael Silvenis, but continued to live in Westland.

Viewing was Sunday December 29, 2013 with a

funeral service on Monday, December 30, 2013 at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Deacon Peter Cornell officiated. Interment was at Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations for the Belleville High School student scholarship fund.

Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Loretta Evelyn Lee

LORETTA EVELYN LEE

(April 28, 1920 - December 27, 2013)

Loretta Evelyn Lee, age 93, of Belleville, MI, passed away Friday, December 27, 2013 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born April 28, 1920 in Washington, PA, daughter of Joseph & Estelle Constance (Pijanowski) Szolek.

Loretta worked as a secretary at the United States Pentagon during WWII in Washington D.C. She worked with President Roosevelt and his First Lady and told many interesting stories of her time with them. She also worked for JC Penney. Mrs. Lee was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, where she was very active and was even the church secretary for many years. She was also a member of September Days Senior Citizens, Van Buren Township. She loved to bowl and in more recent years, she loved keeping in touch with family and friends on the telephone.

Loretta is survived by two daughters Darlene (Lonnie) Devall of Ypsilanti, MI, and Joyce (Walter) Rochowiak of Belleville, MI; 5 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, three sisters Thelma (Stanley) Niedziecki and Gloria Imperapore, both of Canonsburg, PA, and Edith Huffman of Fayetteville, GA, also numerous nieces, nephews and other family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Wendell Lee in 1978, also a sister Elsie Ladzinski.

Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. Visitation was 1-8 PM Sunday at Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main Street, Belleville, with a 7:00 PM Scripture Service. Visitation also was Monday, December 30, 2013 at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville from 9-10 AM with a 10:00 AM Funeral Mass. Father Thomas H. Cusick was Celebrant. Interment will be December 31, 2013 at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, McMurray, PA.

Memorial contributions may be made to the organization of the donor's choice, and would be appreciated by the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for them to keep at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

RICHARD ROBERT KARAS

(July 4, 1927 - December 23, 2013)

Age 86, of Belleville. Survived by wife Anna Mary, son David, three brothers. Services were December 27 at David C. Brown Temporary Chapel, Belleville. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock.



Gary W. Dunstan

GARY W. DUNSTAN

(November 24, 1946 – December 29, 2013)

Gary W. Dunstan, 67, of Belleville, passed away on December 29, 2013. Gary was born November 24, 1946 in Detroit, Michigan. He was the son of the late Ralph W. Dunstan and Margaret C. (Green) Dunstan.

Gary enjoyed golfing, fishing, hunting, and playing cards. Gary loved spending time with friends and family.

To cherish his memory he leaves his wife Peggy Dunstan; two sons Brian (Kelley) Dunstan and William Dunstan; three sisters Dianna (Jim) Peters, Donna (Glen) Goodan, and Gaile (Brad) Alford; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one daughter Diane Dunstan, and one sister Noreen Zuke.

Friends may gather from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday January 4, 2014, at Crane Funeral Home, 36885 Goddard Rd. Romulus, Michigan 48174, and (734) 941-9200. The memorial service will be held on Saturday January 4, 2014, at 3:30pm with Rev. Bryan D. Smith, of the Geneva Presbyterian Church, officiating.

Those who wish, may contribute to the Faithful Helping Hands Community Services in Detroit, Michigan. Online guests may leave condolences, share a photo, or light a memorial candle by visiting www.cranefuneralhome.net.

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Obituaries

CLARK KEVIN MILES

(May 26, 1954 - December 29, 2013)

Clark Kevin Miles, age 59, of Belleville, MI, passed away Sunday, December 29, 2013 in Sumpter Township, MI. He was born May 26, 1954, identical twin of Mark, son of Albert John & Dorothy Ann (Jaddatz) Miles.

Clark was a 1973 graduate of Belleville High School. He worked for Northwest Airlines for many years and retired from Delta Airlines after 34 years in the business. He was a former Belleville Moose Lodge #934 member. He enjoyed playing horse shoes, golfing and riding motorcycles. Most of all, he loved to drive!

Clark is survived by a sister Suzanne Sattelberg of Caro, MI, brother John (Mary) Miles of Plymouth, MI, twin brother Mark Miles of Belleville, niece Kelly Mossner, three nephews Kevin & Kurt Hadaway and AJ Miles, also several aunts, uncles, cousins, great-nieces & nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be Friday 2-8 PM with an 11:00 AM Funeral Saturday, January 4, 2014 at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Pastor Gordon Moore will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for them to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

DAVID ALBERT BASOM, SR.

(May 30, 1930 - December 28, 2013)

David Albert Basom, Sr., age 83, life-long Ypsilanti area resident, passed away Saturday, December 28, 2013 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born May 30, 1930 in Ypsilanti.

David attended the Silent Assembly of God Church. He worked for Ford Motor Company, Sheldon Road plant for 32 years before he retired. He was a member of the U.A.W. He enjoyed woodcarving, fishing, deer hunting, gardening and yard work. Most of all he loved sports. He had two televisions side by side so he never missed a game!

Mr. Basom is survived by four children Clark (Karen) Basom of Westland, MI, Rodger Basom of Whittaker, MI, Susan (Dave) Basom-Juchau of Belleville, MI and David (Paul Cazzolla) Basom, Jr. of Port Saint Lucie, FL; 4 grandchildren Heather, Andrew, Darla and Roxanne; 5 great-grandchildren Christopher, Barrett, Colin, Emma and Nora; as well as several other family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife June (Jabara) Basom on September 22, 2007, also a sister Mary Nankee.

Visitation was Wednesday 2-6 PM with a 1 PM funeral service Thursday, January 2, 2014 at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing and Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association and would be appreciated by the family. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for them to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Use of Community Development Block Grant Funds

On Tuesday January 14, 2014 in accordance with guidelines of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Charter Township of Van Buren will hold a public hearing on the proposed use of the Township's 2014-2015 Community Development Block funds. The Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Hall located at 46425 Tyler Road.

The estimated funding level for 2014-2015 CDBG Budget year is \$125,000. The CDBG program has three National Objectives and each project must satisfy at least one of them:

- Assist low and moderate income persons;
- Address slum and blight conditions; or
- Meet a particular urgent community need.

Some past projects in Van Buren Township have included removal of ADA barriers in public facilities, senior citizen programs, youth programs, planning and design of community areas, demolition of unsafe structures, housing rehabilitation, and administration. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday January 14, 2014.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations will be made with advance notice.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Charter Township of Van Buren
Publish: January 2, 2014
Post: December 20, 2013

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Use of Community Development Block Grant Funds

On Tuesday January 14, 2014 in accordance with guidelines of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Charter Township of Van Buren will hold a public hearing on the reprogramming of portions of the Township's Fiscal Year 2011 Community Development Block funds. The Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Hall located at 46425 Tyler Road.

The funding amounts proposed for reprogramming is FY 2011 - \$83,474.00. The CDBG program has three National Objectives and each project must satisfy at least one of them:

- Assist low and moderate income persons
- Address slum and blight conditions
- Meet a particular urgent community development need

The funds were originally appropriated for a project for the installation of sidewalks along Belleville Road that has been determined ineligible. The funds are proposed to be reprogrammed for improvements at Beck Ball Fields. Some past projects in Van Buren Township have included removal of ADA barriers in public facilities, senior citizen programs, youth programs, planning and design of community areas, demolition of unsafe structures, housing rehabilitation, and administration. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday January 2, 2014.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations will be made with advance notice.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Charter Township of Van Buren
Publish: January 2, 2014
Post: December 20, 2013



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VBT pays PFM

(continued from page 3)

Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing, the township entered into a settlement agreement which stated:

- Effective Dec. 31, 2009 the township set a fair value of Visteon Village at \$60 million for real estate property tax purposes. (Taxable assessed value of \$30 million).

- Visteon was to pay the township \$2.2 million in cash.

- The township was to file a general unsecured claim in court, in the amount of \$9.8 million which Visteon could not object to in the connection with the tax abatement agreements.

- The township agreed that Visteon's inability to meet its commitments in the tax abatement agreements would not be a basis to void or cancel the Tax Abatement Agreements.

- To the extent that property tax payments made by Visteon to the township (including the \$2.2 million payment described above) were inadequate to permit the township to meet its payment obligation on the Township Bonds, Visteon agreed to negotiate with the township in good faith to determine the amount of the shortfall with respect to those bonds and make a payment, in-lieu of tax to the township to assist the township in making timely payments on the township bonds.

Sale of Visteon Village

In September 2011, Visteon Corporation made public the fact that it intended to sell Visteon Village. Sovereign Partners LLC, doing business as Grace Lake LLC, was identified as the potential buyer in March of 2012. The sale of Visteon Village to Sovereign Partners LLC closed on or about April 17, 2012.

VBT litigation

(continued from page 3)

On Oct. 16, 2012, the township board approved hiring the law firm of Clark Hill to assist the township's corporation counsel in moving forward with issues related to Visteon Corporation.

Attorney Kaveh Kashef from Clark Hill has written a letter to Visteon and met in closed sessions with the VBT board and the LDFA.

To date, the township has spent \$46,410 with Clark Hill. Documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act show the charges coming 71% from the

General Fund budget and 29% from Water and Sewer budget, which according to Treasurer Sharry Budd, is the norm for general counsel. Treasurer Budd, said Clark Hill fees will now come from the LDFA budget.

Clerk Leon Wright said the \$41,528 already paid to Clark Hill will be returned to the General Fund and Water and Sewer budgets and be taken from the LDFA budget.

During Visteon's Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings, the township and Visteon entered into an agreement and mutual release, dated Jan. 25, 2010. At the time of the agreement both parties understood and acknowledged that when comparing projected tax revenues with the township's obligations under the bonds, a financial shortfall would occur.

Kashef's Sept. 9, 2013 letter to Visteon's President and CEO Timothy D. Leuliette stated: "The township has completed a comprehensive review of its obligations under bonds, as well as its projected tax revenues, and is confident not only that a shortfall is inevitable but that the shortfall will occur in 2018."

In Kashef's correspondence, a very-detailed, cash-flow analysis prepared by the PFM group was included, as well as a copy of the agreement. On behalf of the township, Kashef requested the parties schedule a meeting within 30 days to negotiate in good faith the amount of the shortfall.

The letter closed with the statement, "If Visteon ignores our request or fails

Belleville woman accepts plea deal in animal cruelty case

Tara Lee Cleveland of Belleville accepted a plea deal for two animal cruelty charges brought against her in 34th District Court on Dec. 4. She stood with her attorney Murray Duncan when she pled guilty to animal neglect. The count of animal cruelty was dismissed.

Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green asked Cleveland if she neglected to care for certain animals that she had responsibility for and Cleveland said that was so.

Judge Green said she wanted to see probation in this case. Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor said police were called after neighbors found a small live dog in a bag discarded in a dumpster. Chief Taylor said police were able to find the little dog a home with a teacher in the Van Buren Public Schools district.

to negotiate in good faith, we will have no other option but to seek relief through judicial means."

The township had not received a response by the Oct. 8 LDFA meeting at which time the LDFA unanimously recommended that the VBT Board instruct its legal counsel to file a petition to reopen the Visteon bankruptcy and initiate other legal action by Nov. 30, 2013.

Supervisor Combs agreed, saying this item would be discussed at the next Monday's (Oct. 14) work-study session, but no mention of the issue was made at that meeting.

A Sept. 10 letter from Kashef to Supervisor Combs was received asking to meet in closed session to consider their demand letter to Visteon, the PFM review, and moving-forward strategy.

The letter also advised that it (the letter) and its attachments not be shared with persons other than the board prior to the board meeting. It also advised that the attorney-client privilege is waived if the confidential document is shared with

persons who are not in the attorney-client relationship.

The disclosure of the Sept. 10 letter in response to a Freedom of Information Act request seems to have jeopardized the legality of a future closed-session with Kashef.

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Sumpter Twp. buys new fire truck from R&R Services for \$402,158

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a new fire truck during its regular meeting on Dec. 10.

The Smeal fire truck is being purchased from R&R Services for \$402,158. R&R had the lowest bid following the specifications out of three, with the other bids being \$398,000 and \$433,000.

Fire Chief Joe Januszyk said the new truck will hold 3,000 gallons of water, which is more than the total of the three trucks that were retired by the department.

Chief Januszyk, Trustee Peg Morgan,

and some fire officers went over the bids to come up with the recommendation.

Chief Januszyk said he hopes this will help Sumpter Township with its ISO rating. He says it's peculiar in that if the ISO rating goes up, insurance costs go down.

In other business at the 21-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved the first reading of an amendment to the Floodplain Management FEMA Ordinance, namely to take out reference to a former map that is not accurate since Sumpter was able to help about 99 properties get removed from FEMA's new floodplain. FEMA said the

amendment passed by Sumpter Sept. 10 was reviewed by the national Flood Insurance Program Coordinator, but that office failed to notice the map revision. FEMA requested Sumpter re-approve the ordinance amendment to account for the removal of FEMA Map 0370E dated Feb. 2;

- Approved the cost of six emergency sirens for \$116,700 from West Shore Services, with a Wayne County Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant reimbursing 75%. Locations will be NE corner of Haggerty and Arkona, Haggerty N. of Wear, SW corner of Savage and Bemis, NW corner of Harris and Sumpter (PNA), SE corner of Sherwood and Arkona, and SE corner of Willis and Rawsonville;

- Approved the following Senior Center Advisory Board Members: Karen Mickens, Margaret Rochon, Barbara Tomason, Ken Stewart, and Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr.;

- Approved accepting and signing the agreement for a \$20,000 Wayne County Parks grant;

- Accepted the resignation of part-time police officer Dave McKeon. Police Chief Jim Pierce said the police department is "moving in another direction";

- Approved support of the Moose Lodge's request to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to transfer its liquor license from 831 E. Huron River Drive to 45476 Harris, the PNA Hall;

- Heard Trustee Peg Morgan ask about an oil company sending out contracts to Sumpter residents for oil drilling. Deputy Treasure Karen Armatis said the township considers this between the property owners and the oil company and is not a township concern. The properties involved have been on Wear and Clark roads. Deputy Clerk Esther Hurst said the township has been telling people they have no opinion on what they do with their property;

- Approved paying warrants, through the end of the year, of \$437,276.92 on a roll-call vote; and

- Heard Mary and Barney Ban speak about how their property has been put into a flood plain and their land is in the area that is the highest in the township. They said it would affect the value of their property

if they want to sell. Their property wasn't in the floodplain in the February map, but now it is. "There's no reason in my opinion for that to be floodplain," Barney Ban said. Township attorney Rob Young said they will ask the Hennessey engineer to come to the next meeting on Jan. 14 to get an answer.

Young said people say you can't fight city hall. "This is city hall and we fought the federal government and won," he said, saying the township paid to have the overview done and residents contributed.

He said why the map would be changed to the detriment of the residents in the northwest part of the township is a mystery and the township will look into it.

Absent and excused from the board meeting were Supervisor Johnny Vawters, Clerk Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr., and Treasurer John Morgan. The board voted to have Deputy Clerk Hurst chair the meeting.



Eric Luke accepted the award for him and his wife Trully for having the best-decorated house in Harbour Pointe subdivision during the City of Belleville's annual home decorating contest. Mayor Kerreen Conley gave out the awards at the Dec. 16 meeting of the city council.

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— Abraham Lincoln

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VBT Environmental Committee briefly discusses landfill leaks

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

Two leaks in a liner at the EQ (Environmental Quality) landfill on the North I-94 Service Drive in Van Buren Township that were first reported in June 2012 were discussed briefly at the Dec. 18 meeting of the VBT Environmental Committee.

According to the committee minutes, EQ representative Mike Takacs attended the October 2012 meeting with a report and then came back again in June 2013.

Takacs said EQ had an anomalous field measurement at the end of June 2012 and they presented a work plan to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in October 2012 and contacted the township to provide full disclosure.

He said there was no threat to groundwater as a result of this reading.

Takacs said the MDEQ should approve their work plan by Oct. 19, 2012 and they should have a report on their dye testing in 60 days.

They promised to keep the township informed.

In June 2013, Takacs again attended the Environmental Committee meeting and explained two potential sources for the leak, noting several steps were made

to resolve the issue and he would report back to the committee when the work was completed.

At the September meeting, Arthur Mullen, Director of Planning and Economic Development, gave a brief update on two leaks in the lining, stating a report would be submitted to MDEQ and an update would be provided at a future meeting.

The October and November committee meetings were cancelled.

Expecting there would be a report from EQ that the work had been completed, the *Independent* attended the December meeting and asked Mullen for an update on corrective measures taken to the reported leaks in the liner.

"EQ had found a leak in the top edge of the liner that was running down the side of the hill. They completed their clean-up and changed their protocols and feel it will make a big improvement to prevent possible leaks in the future," Mullen said.

Wayne Disposal, Inc. is a 500-acre EQ facility located next to Willow Run Airport off the North I-94 Service Dr. in VBT. It opened in 1957.

It is the only commercial hazardous-waste landfill in Michigan and one of only seven of its type in the United States.

The landfill takes waste containing

dangerous materials such as heavy metals. Most of what it receives comes from clean-up projects for industrial waste. No nuclear waste or radioactive waste is accepted.

Annual elections were held at the Dec. 18 committee meeting and chairman David Merritt and vice-chairman Norm DeBuck were re-elected.

Free homes

(continued from page 1)

and family of Detroit.

The new homes were provided through a collaborative effort by Quicken Loans, Bank of America, and National Faith Home Buyers.

The stories on the home giveaways were presented on Channel 4 News and The Detroit News.

Beesley and his wife Jennifer have six children: Todd, Jr., 17; Kyle, 15; Ashley, 12; Collin, 10; Jayden, 2; and Jayce, 8 months.

The family ran out of room in its modular home. The living room was Jayden's bedroom and the den was a nursery.

Lt. Ashford lost his health-care job in September and is struggling to pay the rent. Now he has a house to share with his wife Kaprina and three sons, Joshua, who is a student at Kentucky State; Christian, who recently was accepted at Tennessee State; and Jason Booker.

In the bowl game, Pittsburgh beat Bowling Green, 30-27.

Cop car crash

(continued from page 1)

Police Chief Gene Taylor said the officer was clearing a traffic stop to go on a medical run when the accident occurred. He said there were no injuries, no high speeds and it is considered a minor accident.

He said he called the Michigan State Police in to investigate the accident so everyone will know an outside agency did the investigation.

Chief Taylor said the patrol car will be sidelined until insurance representatives can look at it.

The police car had damage on the driver's side front fender. The little, blue car had damage on the front fender of the passenger side.

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Court Watching:

Teen who shot brother to get psychiatric exam before facing charges

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

Jared Dean-Meeks Ritchie, 17, who is accused of trying to kill his stepbrother with a shotgun on Oct. 27, will have his criminal case delayed until after a psychiatric examination.

Ritchie moved to Sumpter Township from a troubled life in Texas to live with his stepbrother in the 23000 block of Elwell Road and that's where the assault took place.

The victim was hospitalized in serious condition, but has recovered.

On Dec. 18 in Judge Brian Oakley's courtroom at 34th District Court, Ritchie stood with his court-appointed attorney David Lankford for his preliminary examination.

Public Defender Lankford, who represents accused felons at 34th District Court, asked that the preliminary exam be adjourned/postponed until a psychiatric referral was performed, to determine if Ritchie has competency problems.

Lankford said that Ritchie indicated he was going to "plea the Fifth" with his lawyer, meaning Lankford. Lankford had spoken with Ritchie's stepbrother, who said Ritchie may have some mental health issues.

After allegedly shooting his step-brother, Ritchie fled the area by Greyhound bus. Sumpter Police sent out a Nixle alert

asking for help in locating Ritchie and posted Ritchie's photo on Facebook. Police received a solid tip.

Ritchie was apprehended two days after the shooting by U.S. Marshals when the bus stopped in Tulsa, OK. From there Ritchie waived his right to extradition and was eventually transported back to Michigan where the warrant was served.

Richie is charged with six felonies: assault with intent to murder, armed robbery, assault with intent to do great bodily harm, felony assault with a dangerous weapon, felony firearms and discharging a weapon in or at a building.

Judge Oakley explained to Ritchie that they were going to do a referral to help him understand what the charges are and to help his defense attorney, whether it be Lankford or another attorney.

When Ritchie was asked if he understood, his reply was unclear.

Judge Oakley explained to Ritchie that they would adjourn his case for six weeks, but it might be longer.

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— Patrick Henry

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Dec. 22:

0003 – noise complaint, N. Bellridge Dr.
0256 – agency assist, Romulus PD
0257 – assault & battery, Denton
0313 – agency assist, Main St.
0437 – disturbance, Celestine Dr.
1405 – assault & battery, W. Archwood Dr.
1607 – malicious destruction of property, N. Bellridge Dr.
1735 – fraud, Water’s Edge Ln.
1820 – missing person, Holly Ln.
1826 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Mott
1852 – juvenile complaint, Wheeler St.
1924 – breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.
1936 – intimidation threat, E. Schooner Dr.
1957 – fraud, Greenwood Dr.
2025 – breaking & entering, Park Estates
2035 – noise complaint, Hull Rd.
2254 – malicious destruction of property, Dalton
2209 – noise complaint, Van Buren St.

Monday, Dec. 23:

1116 – missing person, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1117 – malicious destruction of property, Maple
1118 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
1323 – private property accident, Belleville
1350 – disorderly conduct, Belleville Rd.
1433 – private property accident, Ecorse Rd.
1639 – private property accident, Belleville
1836 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Lincoln
1907 – harassment call, Belleville
1956 – noise complaint, Hull Rd.
2304 – private property accident, Westlake

Tuesday, Dec. 24:

0034 – agency assist, Estrada
0308 – disturbance, Peachtree
0350 – noise complaint, N. Bellridge Dr.
0624 – assault & battery, Village Green
0639 – disturbance, Denton Rd.
0741 – assault & battery, W. Archwood Dr.
0818 – assault & battery, Haggerty Rd.
1021 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
1110 – suspicious situation, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1227 – assault & battery, Peachtree
1504 – hospice, Westlake
1530 – property damage accident, Belleville/N. I-94
Service Dr.
1542 – disorderly conduct, Belleville Rd.
1601 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service
Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1610 – property damage accident, Belleville
1710 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94
Service Dr.
1725 – mental, Tyler Rd.
2233 – noise complaint, Reene Dr.
2246 – suspicious vehicle, Denton/Bridge
2307 – water leak found, Sonrisa St.

Wednesday, Dec. 25:

1214 – personal injury accident, I-94/Haggerty
1313 – breaking & entering, Lauren Ct.
1454 – breaking & entering, Victoria St.
1556 – disorderly conduct, Westlake
1720 – shots fired, Sumpter Rd.
1839 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94
Service Dr.
1904 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94
Service Dr.
2020 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Thursday, Dec. 26:

0300 – property damage accident, WB I-94 /
Haggery Rd.
0634 – unattended death, Pond Bluff Dr.
1223 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. /
Westlake Circle
1727 – private property accident, Rogers Ave.
1830 – fight, Green Meadows
1832 – animal complaint, Van Buren Park
2110 – property damage accident, Martz Rd.
2115 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
2123 – assault & battery, Lancaster Dr.
2137 – assault & battery, W. Archwood Dr.

Friday, Dec. 27:

0343 – assault & battery, Meadows Ln.
0509 – assault & battery, Meadows
0715 – intimidation threat, E. Schooner Dr.
1155 – private property accident, Liberty
1348 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1620 – suicide or attempt, Haggerty Rd.
1630 – personal injury accident, Beck/Tyler
Saturday, Dec. 28:
0427 – violation public health code/violation
controlled substance act, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1212 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1233 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1301 – private property accident, no location given
1336 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1355 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1500 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1507 – shots fired, Belleville Rd.
2024 – noise complain, Hull Rd.
2117 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2125 – missing person, Hanover Dr.
2216 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2233 – noise complaint, Archwood
2248 – fight, Lake Villa Dr.
2254 – assault & battery, Westlake
Also on this week’s log are 60 traffic stops, 15 of
which were on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 22:

0007 – intrusion alarm, Main St./Liberty St.
0124 – suspicious situation, Main St.
0205 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
0303 – violation public health code/violation
controlled substance act, no location given
0307 – civil matter, no location given
0323 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park
0704 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0845 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
0952 – assist fire dept., Victorian Ln.
1054 – follow up, Lake Villa
1639 – narcotics crime, Belleville Rd./Liberty St.
1704 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1809 – water leak found, E. Huron River Dr.
2021 – suspicious person, Sumpter Rd. / Industrial
Park Dr.
2117 – traffic complaint, Chaney

Monday, Dec. 23:

0242 – suspicious situation, Harbour Pointe Dr.
0738 – suspicious situation, Carmell St.
1119 – disorderly conduct, McBride
1120 – information, W. Columbia Ave.
1122 – narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1147 – miscellaneous complaint, Park Estates
1147 – vehicle lockout, Main St.
1347 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1703 – fight, Main St., hardware store
1830 – miscellaneous complaint, Sumpter
2139 – serve warrant, N. Liberty St.
2149 – background investigation, Main St.

Tuesday, Dec. 24:

0035 – follow up, Estrada
0837 – suspicious situation, no location given
0954 – E-911 hang up, Main St.
1252 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1321 – citizen assist, Main St.
1523 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
1855 – E-911 hang up, Menlo Park Dr.
1942 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.

Wednesday, Dec. 25:

0131 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
0917 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.
1314 – unattended death, W. Columbia Ave.
2210 – assist fire dept., S. Edgemont St.

Thursday, Dec. 26:

0806 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1029 – abandoned auto, Belle Plaza
1058 – civil matter, Henry St.
1744 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1847 – intrusion alarm, Owen
2144 – intrusion alarm, Thornhill Ct.
2235 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
2254 – narcotics crime, Henry St.

Friday, Dec. 27:

1022 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1030 – intrusion alarm, Menlo Park Dr.
1428 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
1515 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1606 – assist fire dept., High St.
1819 – suspicious vehicle, Menlo Park Dr.
2006 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

Saturday, Dec. 28:

0648 – assist fire dept., Henry St.
2025 – agency assist, Haggerty

2103 – intrusion alarm, E. Thornhill Ct.
2108 – family trouble, Carmell St.
2237 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter/Owen
Also on this week’s log are 35 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 22:

0125 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 21000
bl. Fenster
0433 – assist other agency, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
0712 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0932 – fire dept. assist, Birch
0935 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1051 – 911 hang up, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1645 – harassment complaint, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1739 – malicious destruction of property, Idaho
1822 – disorderly person, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1823 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1923 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.
2303 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2332 – suspicious incident, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
2338 – noise complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

Monday, Dec. 23:

1031 – well-being check, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.
1144 – 911 hang up, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.
1248 – suspicious vehicle, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1411 – assist other agency, Washington
1500 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.
1820 – subpoena service, out of township
1851 – subpoena service, out of township
1905 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1933 – civil dispute, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2235 – suspicious vehicle, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 24:

0037 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster
0228 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
0657 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.
1042 – assist other agency, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1055 – animal complaint, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1209 – alarm, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1428 – civil dispute, 9300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1550 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1820 – animal complaint, Willow/Martinsville
1945 – fire dept. assist, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 25:

0242 – alarm, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
0613 – suspicious incident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
1059 – alarm, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1216 – suspicious incident, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
1538 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1819 – alarm, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2231 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Lane

Thursday, Dec. 26:

0044 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Lane
0726 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1220 – suspicious vehicle, 26000 bl. Martinsville
1350 – civil dispute, Pecan
1429 – hunting complaint, 22000 bl. Martinsville
1631 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2007 – shots fired, 49000 bl. Willow Rd.
2030 – property damage accident, Willow /
Martinsville
2044 – personal injury accident, 25000 bl. Elwell
2049 – alarm, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.

2217 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2238 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.

Friday, Dec. 27:

0147 – suspicious vehicle, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
0244 – disorderly person, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1103 – threats complaint, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1233 – recovered stolen vehicle, 26000 bl. Karr Rd
1506 – larceny, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2121 – alarm, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 28:

0025 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0253 – alarm, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1214 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1318 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 51000
bl. Willis Rd.
1353 – disorderly person, 40000 bl. Wear Rd.
1422 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1515 – animal complaint, 6700 bl. Oakville Waltz
1532 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1711 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2014 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 18000 bl.
Haggerty Rd.
Also on this week’s log are 16 follow-up investigations,
19 miscellaneous details, 104 patrol checks, and 19
traffic stops.

Dispatch logs from Belleville, VBT PDs have deleted addresses

Readers of the dispatch logs from the City of Belleville and Van Buren Township police departments may have noticed something has been missing on the logs for the Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 issues of the *Independent*.

The VBT Public Safety Department provides dispatch logs from those two departments and a change has been made.

Police Lt. Ken Floro said a woman became very upset because she made a call to dispatch to report a “shots fired” incident and then she saw her address in the paper with the “shots fired” call. She said people thought she had been shooting.

Over the years the *Independent* has printed the addresses provided for the calls for service and this is the first time a complaint has brought change.

Lt. Floro said the department has decided to provide just the block address rather than the precise address of calls and until they can figure out how to do that on the computerized log they will be providing the log with no addresses at all.

Sumpter Township Police Department, which dispatches through Huron Township, has provided logs with just the street block addresses for many years.

-- Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



The folks over at **Franklin Communities**, who own and operate **Belleville Manor** and **Van Buren Estates** in Belleville, want you to know that it's easier than ever to get into a new home in either of their premier manufactured home communities. Right now, through the month of February, Franklin Homes will match any down payment of up to \$2,000. For details, call Joy at **Van Buren Estates** at (734) 697-6159, or Belinda at (734) 699-7700.

Willis Feed Mill in nearby Willis along the railroad tracks off Willis Road, is one of the largest suppliers of Michigan made pet foods, featuring brands like **Chicken Soup**, **Diamond**, and **Joy** pet foods. Willis Feed Mill also carries premier brands such as **Blue Buffalo** and **Taste of the Wild**. Call (734) 461-1111.

The month of January is **New Year, New You Sales Event** at **Beltone** of Belleville at **889 Sumpter Road**. Start the New Year off with better hearing with great deals on revolutionary **Beltone** hearing technology. **Beltone** offers service and warranties nationwide and you can even control your own hearing aid device by **Smartphone**. Call today for a free hearing consultation at

(734) 256-4113 or visit their office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. They're closed Wednesdays. To learn more, visit www.beltonehearingaid.com

Thank you to our advertisers for all of your business over the past year and especially those who have been with us since day one. We look forward in continuing our relationship into the New Year. We believe the success of our newspaper starts with getting this paper into the hands of you, the reader, every week. We believe we do that better than anyone else, period. Our papers don't just lie around like others. Happy New Year!

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

VBT Board holds closed session to discuss Beck fields

After the Dec. 16 work/study session of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, the board went into closed-door session with attorney Patrick McCauley to discuss an "attorney opinion letter on Revocable License and Operating Agreement" for the Beck Road Ballfields.

-- Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

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